



# Nanotechnology and Pollution Prevention: An Exploratory Example



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**National Science and Technology Council**

**Pollution Prevention Through Nanotechnology Conference**  
**Arlington, VA \* September 25, 2007**

# Widespread Application Areas for Nanotechnology

In Part, from R. Tomellini

Medicine  
and  
Health

Information  
Technology

Energy  
Production  
Storage  
Transmiss.  
Use

Materials  
Science

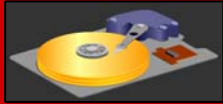
Water and  
the  
Environ-  
ment

Instruments

Food



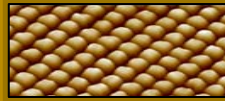
Drug  
delivery



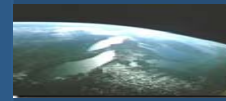
GMR Hard  
Disk



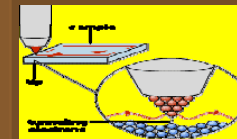
Hydrogen  
Fuel Cells



Lightweight &  
strong matls.



Remediation  
methods

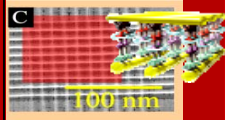


Tunneling  
microscopy

Packaging



Treatments  
for Cancer



Molecular  
Switches



Solar Cells



City-Sized  
Skyscrapers



"Smart"  
Membranes



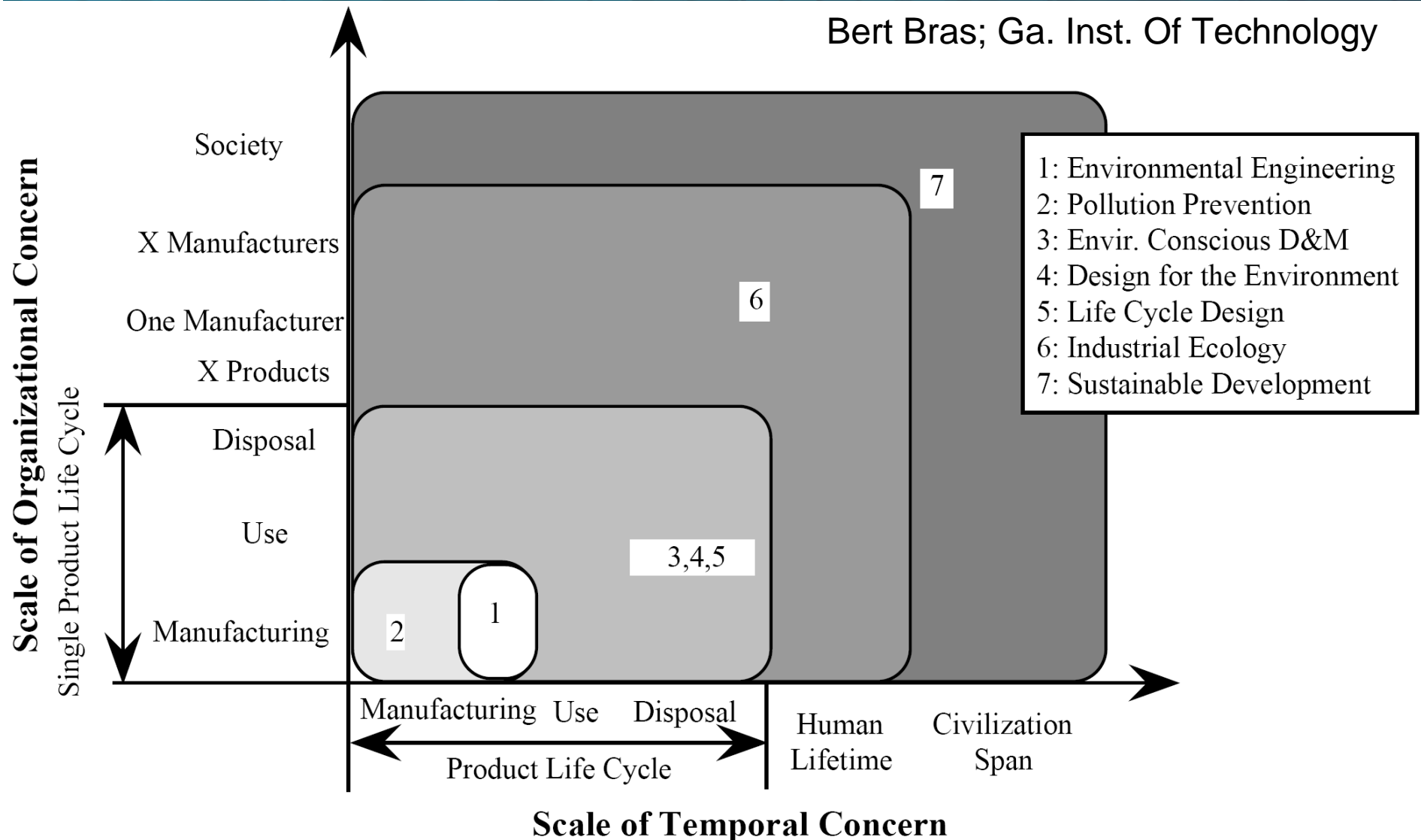
Nano  
Manipulators

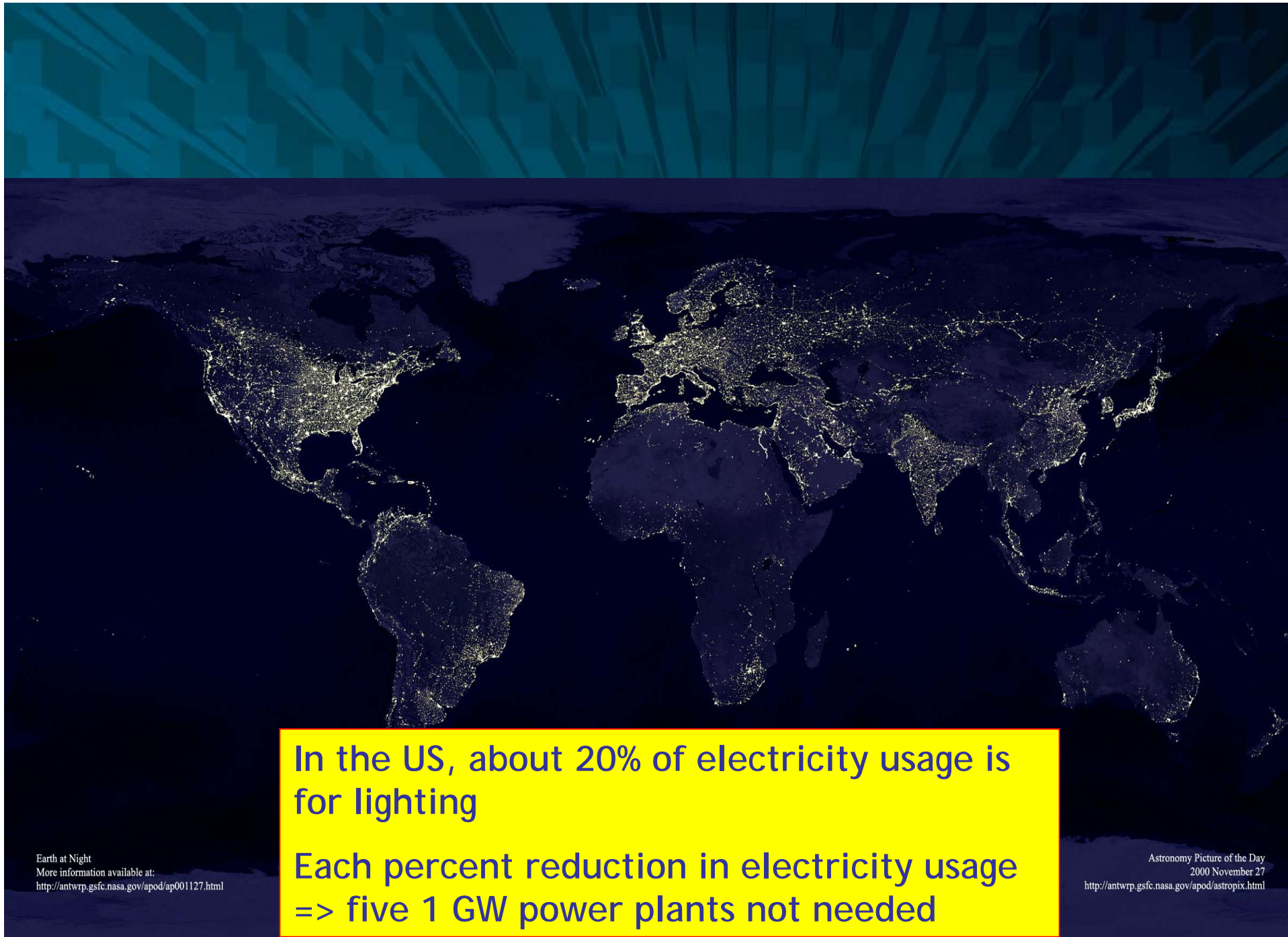
Pathogen  
Sensors

Expected to impact virtually all technological sectors as an  
"enabling" or "key" technology

# Scope of Environmental Systems Issues

Bert Bras; Ga. Inst. Of Technology





In the US, about 20% of electricity usage is for lighting

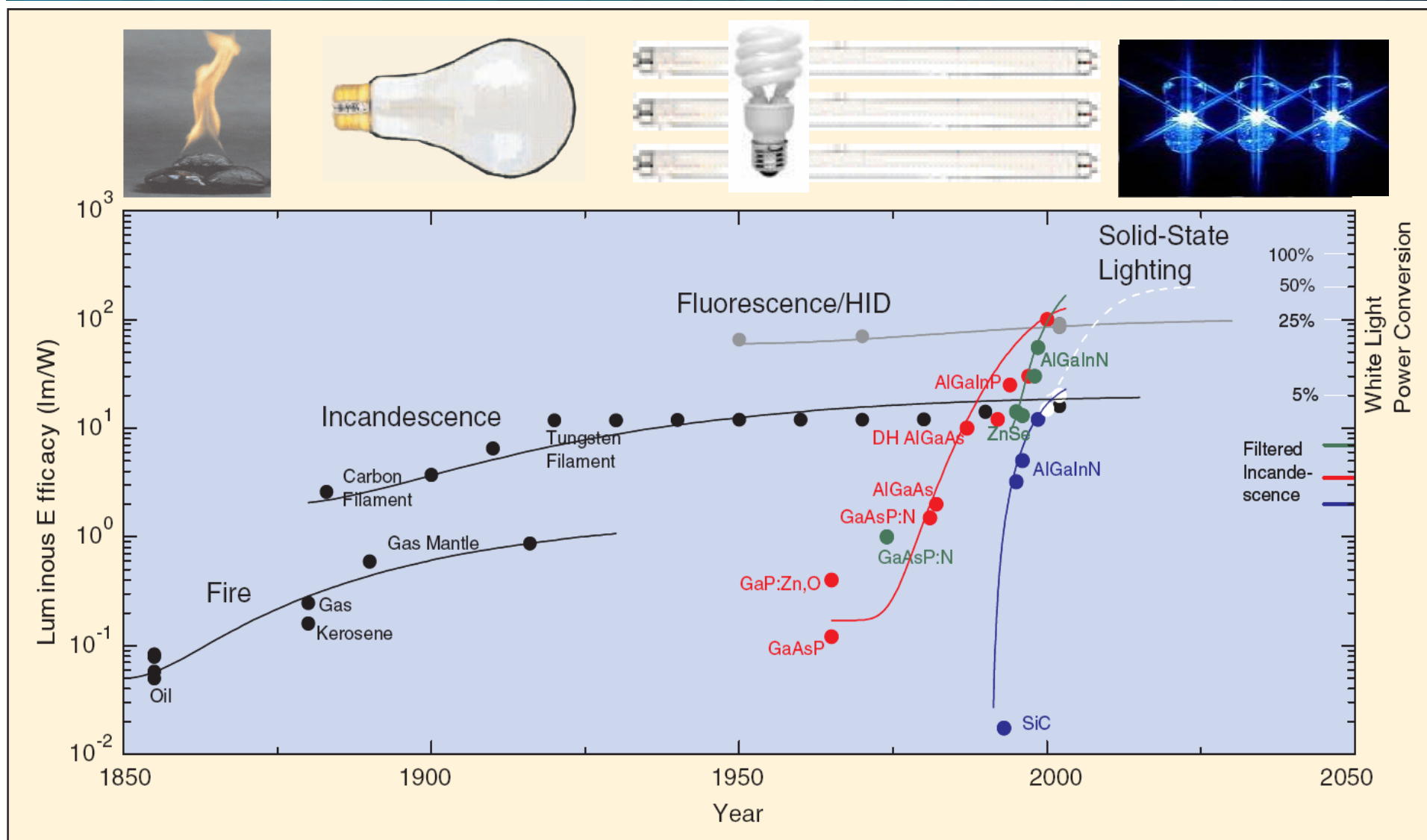
Each percent reduction in electricity usage  
=> five 1 GW power plants not needed

Earth at Night  
More information available at:  
<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap001127.html>

Astronomy Picture of the Day  
2000 November 27  
<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>



# 200-year Evolution of Luminous Efficacy for Various Lighting Technologies



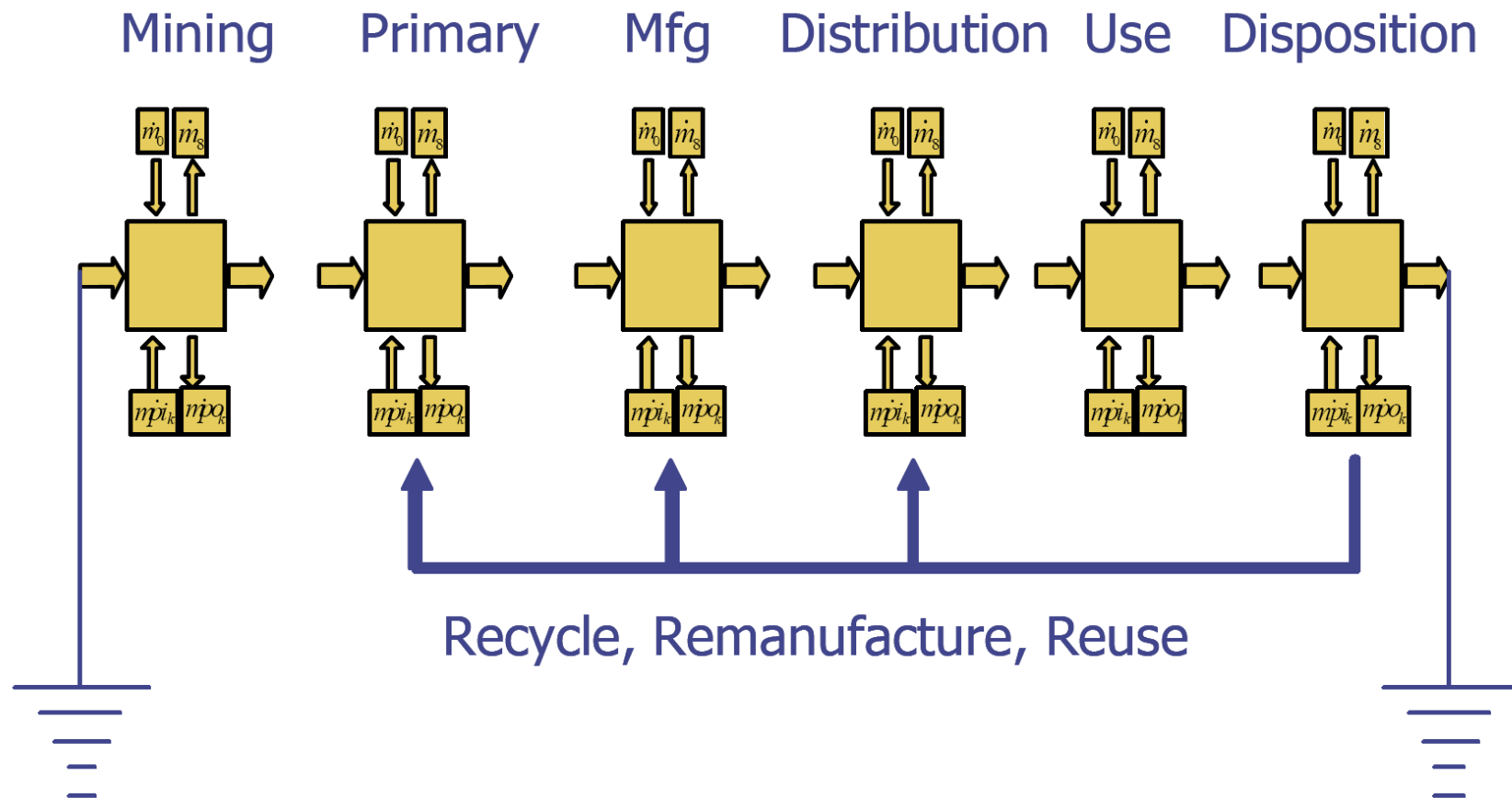
# Efficiency and Lifetime Comparisons

	<i>Efficiency (lumens/ watt)</i>	<i>Expected Lifetime (hours)</i>
<i>Standard general service incandescent</i>	14	1,000
<i>Compact screw-in fluorescent</i>	55	10,000
<i>White light solid state light emitting diodes</i>	70-150*	20,000 - 70,000

\*Cree, Inc. announced 9/13/07 R&D results of 129 lumens per watt for a cool-white LED and 99 lumens per watt for a warm-white LED

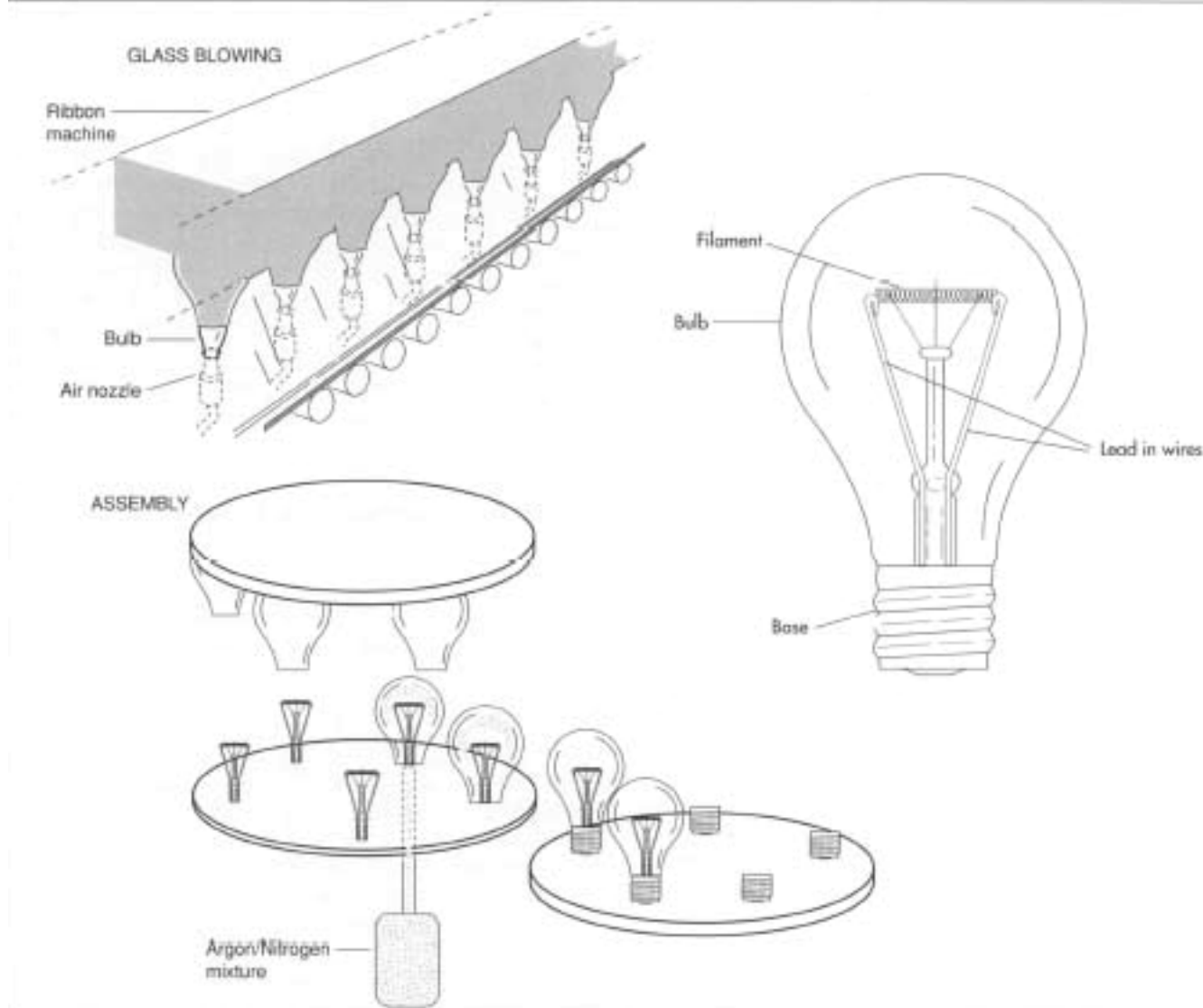
**"Energy Savings Potential of Solid State Lighting in General Illumination Applications"**  
DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - November 2003

# Product Life Cycle Material Flows



T. G. Gutowski; December 2004;  
Handbook of Mechanical Engineering

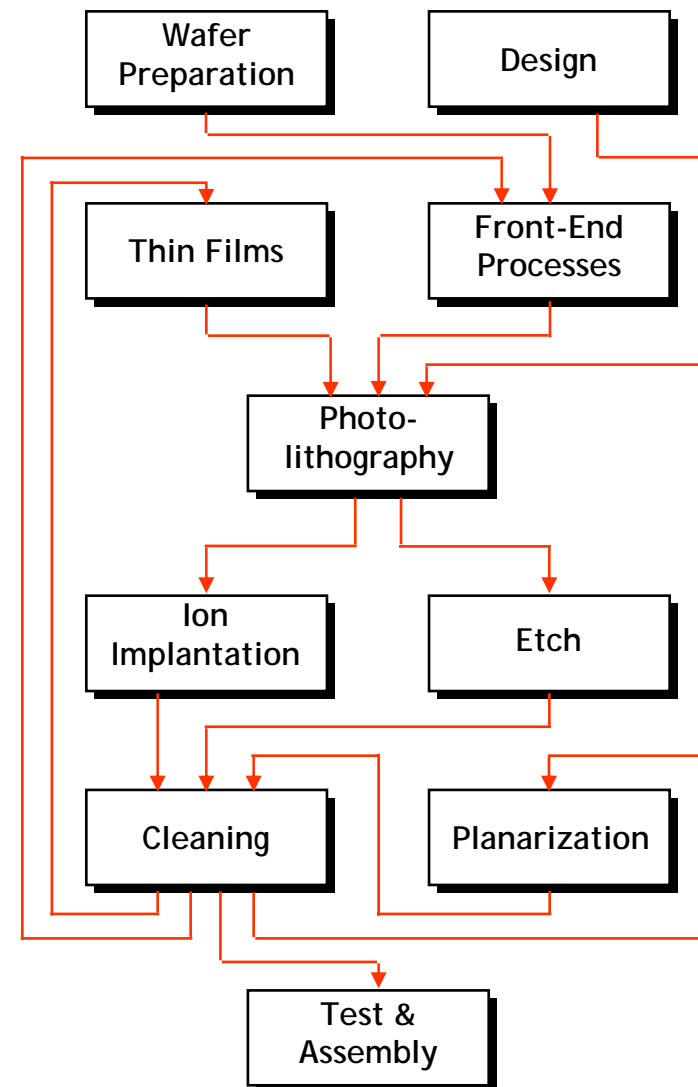
# Mfg. Incandescent Bulb - Simple



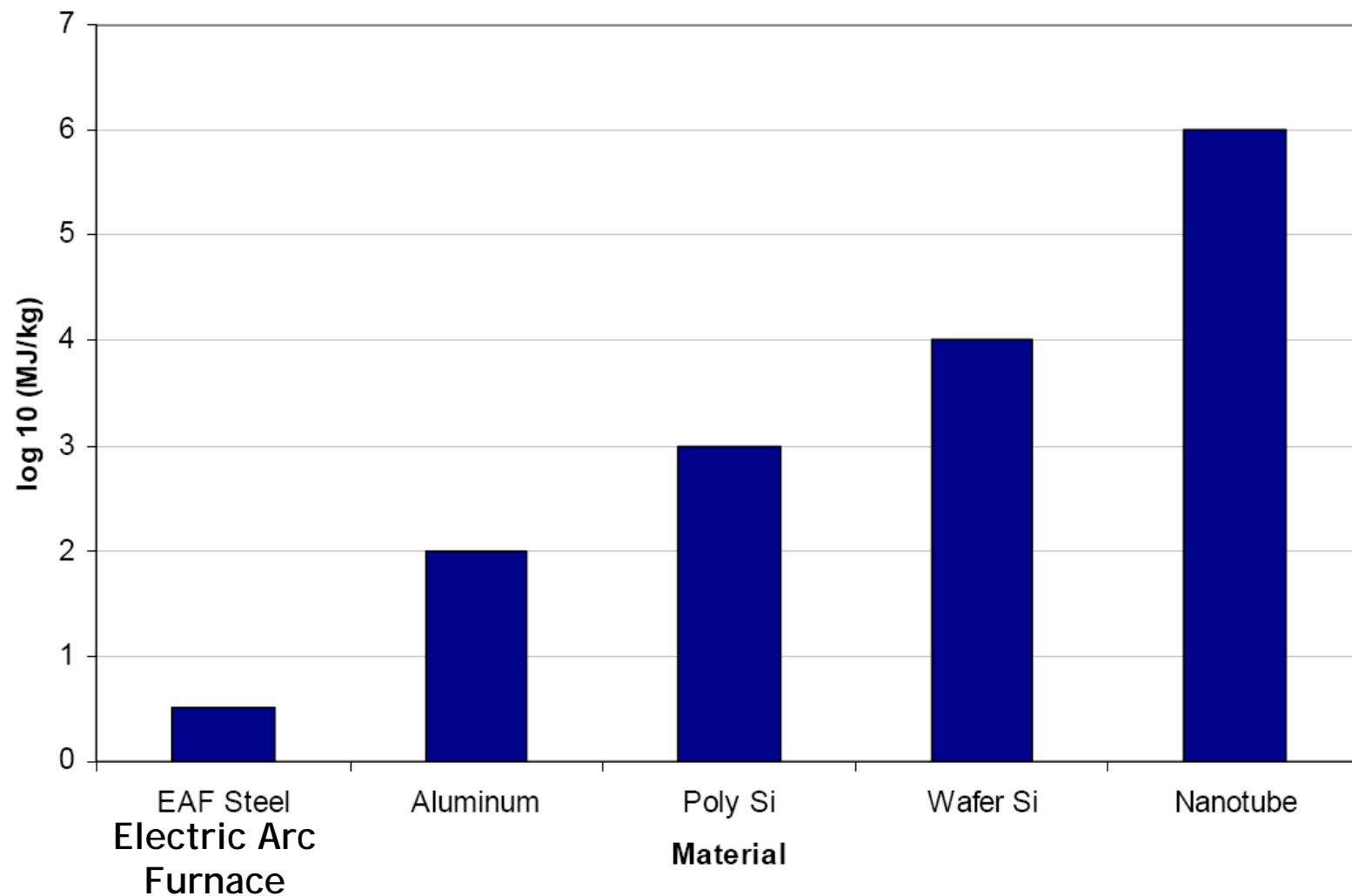


# Semiconductor Manufacturing Processes - Complex, Energy Intensive

Mass of 32 MB DRAM Chip	2 grams
Total chemical inputs	72 g/chip
Total fossil fuel inputs	1,600 g/chip
Total water use	32,000 g/chip
Total elemental gas use	700 g/chip



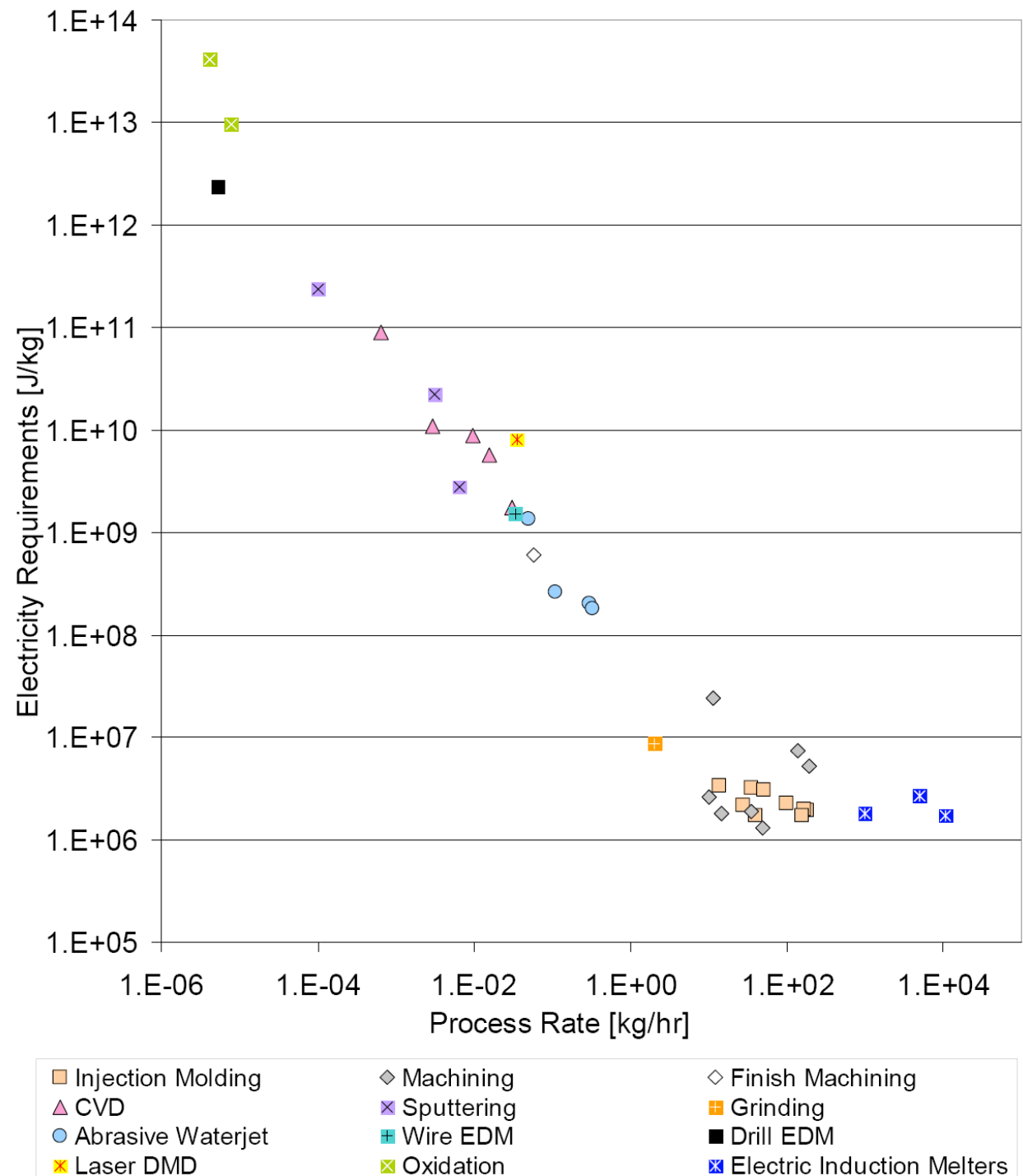
# Electrical Energy Requirements to Produce 1 Kilogram of Five Materials.



# Energy Requirements Increase for High Tech, Smaller Feature Manufacturing Processes

TG Gutowski, J Dahmus,  
A Thiriez

Proc. CIRP Conf. on Life  
Cycle Eng. Leuven, 2006




# Graedel's Environmentally Responsible Product Assessment Matrix

	Life Cycle Stage				
Environmental Stressor	<i>Pre-manufacture</i>	<i>Product Manufacture</i>	<i>Product Delivery</i>	<i>Product Use</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
<i>Materials Choice</i>					
<i>Energy Use</i>					
<i>Solid Residues</i>					
<i>Liquid Residues</i>					
<i>Gaseous Residues</i>					

# Graedel's Environmentally Responsible Product Assessment Matrix

## Incandescent Light Bulb

	Life Cycle Stage				
Environ- mental Stressor	<i>Pre- manufacture</i>	<i>Product Manufacture</i>	<i>Product Delivery</i>	<i>Product Use</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
<i>Materials Choice</i>	(N)	<i>GE Developing Incandescent Light Bulb that promise to match CFL's Efficiency * Feb 24 2007</i> 			4
<i>Energy Use</i>	(Gla				4
<i>Solid Residues</i>	3				3
<i>Liquid Residues</i>	3	3	3	1	4
<i>Gaseous Residues</i>	3	3	3	1	4



# Graedel's Environmentally Responsible Product Assessment Matrix

## Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb

	Life Cycle Stage				
Environmental Stressor	<i>Pre-manufacture</i>	<i>Product Manufacture</i>	<i>Product Delivery</i>	<i>Product Use</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
<i>Materials Choice</i>	2 (Hg, glass, phos.)	2 (Fairly complex)	3	3	2 (Hg, phos.)
<i>Energy Use</i>	2	2	3	3	2 (Cpx. Recy)
<i>Solid Residues</i>	2		3	3	2
<i>Liquid Residues</i>			3	3	3
<i>Gaseous Residues</i>	2	3	3	3	3

Score = 63

# Graedel's Environmentally Responsible Product Assessment Matrix

## White Light Emitting Diode Based Light Bulb

	Life Cycle Stage				
Environmental Stressor	<i>Pre-manufacture</i>	<i>Product Manufacture</i>	<i>Product Delivery</i>	<i>Product Use</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
<i>Materials Choice</i>	2 (Adv. Mtls.<<qty )	2 (Complex mfg.)	4		2
<i>Energy Use</i>	2 (Pure Mtls.)	2	4	4	3
<i>Solid Residues</i>	2	2	4	4	2
<i>Liquid Residues</i>	2	2	4	4	3
<i>Gaseous Residues</i>	3	3	4	4	3

Score = 75

# Hg Pollution From Operation & Disposal of Different Technology Light Bulbs

	<i>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plant per 1000 lumen-hour of operation</i>	<i>Hg emissions from power plant per 1000 lumen-hour of operation</i>	<i>Power Plant Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> for 25.5 Mlh 100 W Incd. For 5 yrs at 10 h/day</i>	<i>Number of bulbs X Mass of Hg per bulb</i>	<i>Power Plant Emissions of Hg for 25.5 Mlh* 100 W Incd. equivalent for 5 yrs at 10 h/day</i>	<i>Total Hg to environment for 5 years operation</i>
<i>Standard general service incandescent</i>	43 g/klh (grams per 1000 lumen-hr)	0.3 ug/klh	1100 kg	18 x 0	7.6 mg	7.6 mg
<i>Compact screw-in fluorescent</i>	11 g/klh	0.07 ug/klh	280 kg	2 x 4 mg of Hg	1.8 mg	9.8 mg
<i>White light solid state light emitting diodes</i>	6 g/klh	0.04 ug/klh	153 kg	1 x 0 Hg (bound Ga + S, Se, N)	1.0 mg	1.0 mg

\*Assumes 4 micrograms Hg emitted per kwh energy generated by power plant - From EPA MACT floor limits

# Conclusions from Simplified LCA

- Even partial and simplified LCA is difficult - requiring significant time to track down quantitative information and data
  - Each material in product needs to be tracked through lifecycle
- Very informative with often surprising results
- Nanotechnology offers major opportunities to:
  - Choose materials of lesser toxicity
  - Use smaller quantities of materials to achieve function
  - Simplify raw material refining and mfg. processes
  - But, may also increased energy per unit processed mass
  - Realize higher energy efficiency devices with resultant minimized environmental impact

# How and Where in the Product Life Cycle Can Nanotechnology have an Impact?

	Life Cycle Stage				
Environ- mental Stressor	<i>Pre- manufacture</i>	<i>Product Manufacture</i>	<i>Product Delivery</i>	<i>Product Use</i>	<i>Disposition and/or Recycling</i>
<i>Materials Choice</i>	Less toxic mtl's Less qty. mtl's	Less waste; directed self- assembly	Point of use manufacture	Engineered to be safe	Engineered for bio compatibility
<i>Energy Use</i>	Less waste of energy	Less waste of energy and mtl's	Compact realization of function	High efficiency of realized function	"
<i>Solid Residues</i>	Less waste				
<i>Liquid Residues</i>	Less waste				
<i>Gaseous Residues</i>	Less waste				